GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5269
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
SMUGGLING OF FROGS
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain amphibians including frogs are being smuggled out;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of such smuggling on protection of crops; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) As per the information available with the Central Government, only two instances of smuggling of frogs have been reported.

(b) Two seizures of smuggled frogs have been made in Assam on 10-4-07 and 22-4-07. In the first instance, 71 frogs were seized at New Guwahati Railway Station and in the second case 600 frogs were caught in Morigaon district. Two persons have been arrested in this connection.Amphibians play a critical role in controlling the pests. Large scale smuggling of amphibians including frogs can have adverse impacts on agriculture production due to increase in the pest population.

(c) The following steps have been taken in this regard:

1. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for safe and secure habitats in Protected Areas to all forms of wildlife including amphibians.

2. Important amphibian species have been included in Part II of Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, thereby providing highest degree of protection.

3. Strict vigil is maintained by the staff of wildlife department against illegal capture and smuggling of wildlife including amphibians.

4. Sensitization programmes for wildlife conservation and its importance are organized at various places from time to time.